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Bond Street railroad crossing closed temporarily

The railroad crossing at Bond Street will be closed Wednesday, Feb. 17, for repairs, according to Mayor Scott Long's assistant Bev Vanderpool. "Please plan to take alternate routes," said Vanderpool.

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Local vaccine clinic open despite inclement weather

Over 70 clinics in state were forced to close, but not Wabash

By **ROB BURGESS**
Wabash Plain Dealer Editor

This week's winter storm which has ravaged large swaths of the nation caused several Indiana COVID-19 clinics to close their doors Tuesday, but not Wabash County's.

On Tuesday, the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) announced that more than 70 COVID-19 vaccine clinics were closed.

"Individuals who need to reschedule their appointments can click on the link in their last confirmation text message or email or call 211 if they need assistance. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says individuals who receive their second dose of either the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine within 42 days of the first dose will have full protection from the virus," stated the ISDH.

On Tuesday, Parkview Wabash Hospital president Marilyn J. Custer-Mitchell said their "goal is to not cancel the clinics."

"If we need to, anyone scheduled will receive a text or mail from ISDH telling them of the cancellation. The ISDH will also tell them if they need to reschedule on their own of

if we will call them," said Custer-Mitchell. "We prefer to call and reschedule people ourselves if we can do that."

During last week's Wabash City Council meeting, Mayor Scott Long said those who received their first doses starting Jan. 14 were being notified that their second dose would be administered at the Honeywell Center, instead of the

See **VACCINE**, page A3

Let it snow

Up to a foot of powder has fallen locally so far this week, with more in the forecast

By **ROB BURGESS**
Wabash Plain Dealer Editor

A winter storm that swept most of the country this week has left many people digging out, and Wabash County was no exception.

On Tuesday afternoon, National Weather Service (NWS) of Northern Indiana meteorologist Rachel Cobb said there had been between 8 inches and 12 inches total snow accumulation from Monday through early Tuesday.

But, given the high winds which accompanied the storm, that figure was not hard and fast.

"That may vary from place to place because of the drifting," said Cobb. "Measurements have been very variable because of that."

And Cobb said the powder is forecasted to keep falling through the rest of the week, though in lesser amounts.

"It will be smaller, quite a bit smaller, 1 inch to maybe 2 inches more," said Cobb.

Cobb said in addition to the precipitation and the wind, the temperature has been challenging, as well.

"We're still going to stay cold and so for today and tonight, wind chill is a concern," said Cobb. "Wind chills are down between negative 5 and negative 10 (degrees Fahr-



Provided photo by Kat Hauptert

Local children take advantage of the fresh powder.

enheit) and that can cause frostbite in a half-hour with exposed skin."

Last month, NWS Northern Indiana meteorologist Todd Holsten said despite the recent winter storms Indiana was still in drought conditions.

Cobb said that was still the case.

Cobb said from the start of the season Dec. 1 through

See more photos on A10

midnight Monday, their station in Fort Wayne had recorded 4.32 inches of liquid so far, as compared with 6.09 inches of liquid in a normal year, making 1.77 inches of difference.

Cobb said that figure wouldn't go up that much, even with Tuesday morning's accumulations added to the mix.

"I think a lot of the snow came before last night," said Cobb.

Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer editor, may be reached by email at rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com.

County applies for \$250K to improve access to childcare

Moderate-, low-income families could benefit from this grant

By **ROB BURGESS**
Wabash Plain Dealer Editor

Families in Wabash County could soon benefit from increased childcare options if a state grant application is approved.

A public hearing on the matter was held during Monday's Wabash County Commissioners meeting.

Grow Wabash County president and CEO Keith Gillenwater said they were applying for \$250,000 in funding from the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA) for a grant from the State Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) COVID-19 Phase III Recovery Program.

Gillenwater said this would be used to fund grants to childcare providers within Wabash County to create new or expanded child care services.

Gillenwater said \$124,313 of that funding would be used "for activities that will benefit low- and moderate-income families."

Gillenwater said there would also be an estimated \$50,000 in non-CDBG funds added to the project from the Community Foundation of Wabash County (CFWC).

CFWC program director Julie Garber said the trouble families go through to find childcare touches every facet of the county.

"There are few things in the county that affect our economy and our social life than early childhood education," said Garber. "It not only affects children, but it also affects our employers who are trying to keep people at work (and) bring people back to work. Childcare is often the issue. This is an issue that affects children, families, employees, employers and our whole county."

Grow Wabash County project manager for marketing and events Chelsea Boulrisse said they agreed with this assessment, and so did business owners they were in contact with.

"One of the big things that we always hear when we talk to employers trying to attract families and one of those biggest hurdles is providing proper, quality daycare for their children," said Boulrisse. "A lot of times that is what helps them decide between going back to work or staying home and taking care of their family. It eliminates one more boundary for people to get back into the workforce."

District 3 commissioner and vice-chairman Barry J. Eppley said he "fully"

See **CHILDCARE**, page A3



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FEMA opens mass vaccine sites as bad weather hampers efforts

By **EUGENE GARCIA**
and **JOCELYN NOVECK**
Associated Press

FEMA opened its first COVID-19 mass vaccination sites Tuesday, setting up in Los Angeles and Oakland as part of an effort by the Biden administration to get shots into arms more quickly and reach minority communities hit hard by the outbreak.

Snow and ice across much of the U.S., meanwhile, forced the cancellation of many vaccination appointments and delayed vaccine deliveries around the country. Houston's public health agency lost power and had to scramble to give out thousands of shots before they spoiled.

The developments came as the vaccination drive ramps up. The U.S. is administering an average of nearly 1.7 million doses per day, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. At the same time, coronavirus deaths are down sharply over the past six weeks, and new cases have plummeted.

In the early morning in Los

Angeles, several dozen cars were already lined up with people sitting inside, reading newspapers and passing the time, a half-hour before the 9 a.m. opening of the nation's first mass vaccination site run with assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Troops in camouflage fatigues stood around the sprawling parking lot at California State University, Los Angeles, where some 40 white tents were erected and dozens of orange cones put in place to guide traffic.

The site, set up in heavily Latino East L.A. as part of an effort to reach communities that have suffered disproportionately during the crisis, aims to vaccinate up to 6,000 people a day. Another such site opened at the Oakland Coliseum, near working-class Black and Latino neighborhoods.

Hard-hit California has overtaken New York state for the highest death toll in the nation, at over 47,000.

The Los Angeles site is "proximate to a community that has been disproportion-

ately impacted by this pandemic," Gov. Gavin Newsom said. "The effort here is to address that issue forthrightly."

The Biden administration intends to establish 100 such federally assisted vaccination sites nationwide in cooperation with state authorities.

Elsewhere around the country, the virus put a big damper on Mardi Gras in New Orleans. The French Quarter's Bourbon Street, where the rowdiest partying usually takes place, was blocked off with police barricades, and bars were ordered closed, a year after Mardi Gras crowds were blamed for a severe outbreak of COVID-19 in Louisiana.

"It's hard to wrap my head around it," New Orleans lawyer Dave Lanser, wearing a luminescent green cape and a black mask with a curved beak, said as he looked up and down a nearly empty Bourbon Street. But "I don't think there's a way to safely do it this year," he said. "So, I support canceling the parades, closing the bars, all that kind of stuff."

PULSE

From page A1

Heartland Career Center board to meet Wednesday

The Board of Managers of the Heartland Career Center will hold their regular monthly business meeting at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 17 in Seminar Room No. 7, 79 S. 200 West, according to payroll clerk Sherry Truss.

Wabash County Animal Shelter partnership to pair emerging readers with dogs, cats

The local Literacy for Companionship program will be held on the third Thursday of each month, starting Feb. 18 at the Wabash County Animal Shelter, 810 Manchester Ave. The time will be split into

30-minute shifts from 4 to 6 p.m., with four children scheduled per session. There is no cost for the program and the parents or guardians will be with the children at all times. For more information, call 260-563-3511.

Second Harvest to hold tailgate food distributions

Second Harvest Food Bank of East Central Indiana has planned tailgate food distributions for 1 p.m. Wednesday, March 10 at Manchester Church of the Brethren, 1306 Beckley St., North Manchester; and 11 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 24 and Wednesday, March 24 at Bachelor Creek Church of Christ, 2147 Indiana 15. For more information, visit www.curehunger.org/classy.org/campaign/hunger-action-month/c299182 or <https://www.givepulse.com/group/203410>.

Series of in-person Imagine One 85 workshops rescheduled for early March

Originally planned for February, a series of in-person Imagine One 85 Focus on the Future sessions have been slated for early March by the Community Foundation of Wabash County (CFWC) and Grow Wabash County. Planned in-person sessions include 6 p.m. Monday, March 1 at the Roann Community Center, 105 N. Chippewa St., Roann; 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 2 at the Lagro Town Hall, 230 Buchanan St., Lagro; 6 p.m. Tuesday, March 2 at The Learning Center, 207 N. Wabash Ave., La Fontaine; 6 p.m. Wednesday, March 3 at the Honeywell Center's Legacy Center, 275 W. Market St.; and 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Thursday, March 4 at the Manchester

Community Schools Administration Building Auditorium, 404 W. 9th St., North Manchester. To register, visit <https://imagineone85.org/focus-on-the-future/>.

Grow Wabash County hosting Process Communication workshop

Registration is now open for Grow Wabash County's Process Communication Model (PCM) workshop scheduled for Monday, May 3 through Wednesday, May 5, at the Grow Wabash County office. Tuition for the workshop will be \$550 until March 9, when the cost will go up to \$600. The tuition fee will cover the participant's course fees, an in-depth personalized PCM profile, and snacks and meals throughout the workshop. Those interested or representatives for their companies can do so at www.growwabashcounty.com/pcmworkshop or by contacting Grow Wabash County by email info@growwabashcounty.com or by phone at 260-563-5258.

Employers invited to Manchester University Virtual Career Fair

Those with opportunities for full-time and part-time employment, internships and graduate school are invited to take part in the Manchester University Virtual Career Fair. March 5 is the deadline to register is March 5, but spots are limited. Organizations can take part free of charge. The virtual career fair is 1 to 3 p.m. Wednesday, March 10 on Handshake, an online platform that helps students connect with potential employers. This fair is for undergraduate students from the North Manchester campus. Register by visiting <https://link.manchester.edu/careerfair> or email CareerDevelopment@manchester.edu.

manchester.edu.

Salute to Ag Dinner planned for March 10

The 2021 Salute to Ag Dinner will take place at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 10 at the Heartland REMC building, 350 Wedcor Ave. Tickets are \$20 each and sponsorship opportunities are available ranging from \$100 to \$2,500. For more information, visit growwabashcounty.com/ag2021 or email marketing ag@growwabashcounty.com or call 260-563-5258.

Southwood, Metro North Kindergarten Round-Ups announced

Children who will be at least five years of age on or before Aug. 1 are eligible to participate in kindergarten for the 2021-2022 school year. Southwood Elementary will host their Round-Up on Wednesday, March 10, and Metro North Elementary will hold theirs on Thursday, March 11. Families must register for Kindergarten Round-Up no later than March 8. To register, visit www.msdlwc.k12.in.us. For more information about Southwood Elementary School, email Principal Phil Boone at boonepr@msdlwc.k12.in.us. For more information about Metro North Elementary School, email Principal Janette Moore at moorej@msdlwc.k12.in.us.

Visit Wabash County plans annual St. Trolley's Day Tour

Visit Wabash County has announced tickets are on sale for the annual St. Trolley's Day Tour set for Saturday, March 13. The St. Trolley's Day Tour is \$30 per person, due at registration, and is all-inclusive for those 21 and older. To register, visit www.VisitWabashCounty.com/trolley-tours, visit 221

funds from the Lucille Camp Scholarship Trust, applicants must be either a 2021 graduate of WHS or a student who graduated from WHS within the last three years – 2018, 2019 and 2020.

Applications are available in the Guidance Office at WHS or on the website under "High School-Scholarships."

Completed applications are due by Friday, March 5. For more information, call 260-563-4131, ext. 3203; fax 260-563-6806 or visit <https://www.apaches.k12.in.us/>.

S. Miami St. or call 260-563-7171.

COVID-19 testing continues at Parkview Wabash

OptumServe will administer free COVID-19 testing from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays at Parkview Wabash Hospital "on an on-going basis." Testing will take place at 8 John Kissinger Drive in the first-floor conference room of the Medical Office Building (MOB) adjoining Parkview Wabash Hospital. Testing site patrons should not use the MOB entrance or enter through the hospital, but instead, enter and exit through the designated entrance between the two buildings. Signage will mark the appropriate entrance, which is within a few steps of the conference room and testing site.

DivorceCare meets Tuesdays

DivorceCare, a 13-week DVD series sponsored by Wabash Friends Counseling Center, features some of the nation's foremost Christian experts on topics concerning divorce and recovery, according to group leader Janet Quillen. The support group meets at 6:30 p.m. every Tuesday in the Conference Room in the Wabash Friends Counseling Center, 3563 South State Road 13. Wearing a mask is required when entering. Quillen and members of the group meet for dinner at 5:30 p.m. at Subway, 1812 S. Wabash St., on State Road 15. For more information, call 260-563-8453, 877-350-1658, email office@wabashfriends.org, call 260-571-5235 or visit www.divorcecare.org.

Editor's note: If you have an upcoming event to submit, please send it by email to news@wabashplaindealer.com no later than five days before the event itself. Please use complete sentences, Associated Press style and Microsoft Word or PDF file formats.

TRIVIA

Who am I?

Brain Teasers

Movie Stars

Popular Music

PLAY TRIVIA AND WIN!

WE ARE GIVING AWAY **\$1,000** in our new **Publication TRIVIA Game**

Trivia begins on January 13, 2021 and concludes on February 20, 2021. Look for the Trivia question on page A2 of the Wabash Plain Dealer every Wednesday and Saturday and fill in the correct answer on the entry form.

Mail your entry forms each week, or save them up and mail them all at one time, to be included in the drawing. Your envelope must be post marked by February 18 to be accepted. Drawing occurs on February 23, 2021.

First Prize \$500 Second Prize \$250 Third Prize \$150 Fourth Prize \$50 Fifth Prize \$50

6. In a bingo game, which number is represented by the phrase "two little ducks"?

Answer _____

ENTRY FORM

Full Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Phone Number: _____

E-mail: _____

MAIL YOUR FORM TO: Wabash Plain Dealer, 99 W. Canal St., Wabash, IN 46992

No purchase necessary. Entry form must be completely filled out to qualify. Only one entry per household per week is permitted. All decisions of the newspaper are final. Employees and their immediate family members of the newspaper are not eligible to win.


Drawing of all eligible entries will be drawn on February 23, 2021, picking first, second, third, fourth and fifth place winners; and published in the newspaper on February 27, 2021. Must be 18 years or older.



Good Luck playing trivia this week ... Have fun ...



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Obituaries

Unlikely lessons from Super Bowl ad

‘We found a baby girl for your adoption, but there are some things you will need to know. She’s in Siberia, and she was born with a rare condition. Her legs will need to be amputated. I know this is difficult to hear. Her life, it won’t be easy.’

This was part of one of the Super Bowl commercials this year, from Toyota. It was the story of Jessica Long, an adoptee who went on to become a champion Paralympian swimmer. I don’t know if the people behind the ad knew what they were doing – I assume they set out to merely tell an inspiring story while selling a product. But what they created was a challenge to our current culture.

The message was pro-adoption and pro-life in the best of ways. This wasn’t a Focus on the Family or a March for Life

Foundation – i.e., activist – production. This was a car company presenting an obviously uplifting story. It turned out to be one that points to healing possibilities. Let’s look at human faces. Let’s see what love can do.

In “A Long Way Home: The Jessica Long Story,” a NBC Sports short documentary, viewers journey with the swimmer back to the Russian orphanage where her father picked her up as a newborn. Next stop: Her parents. Her birth mother was an unmarried 16-year-old when she found out she was pregnant. Upon meeting her birth parents, Long felt a wholeness, as if two separate parts of her life were merging.

There is so much hope in her story, for all involved – even acknowledging the pain of separation and loss. High on the list of reasons for hope is: There is a way for a child who has disabilities to live and succeed. Success has many flavors and, of course, won’t always be of the kind Long has managed.

But human life has value. It is a gift. This is about basic human rights. But the gift of faith doesn’t hurt – Long has said God is her strength and clearly had a plan from the beginning.

Love is an act of the will. And a woman who fears having a child and yet makes a plan for her child to live is heroic. Birth mothers are heroines, plain and simple. We should help them every step of the way. And we should let them know that they have done something heroic in this culture.

In the NBC Sports short film, Long explains that she wants her birth parents to know that she’s not angry she wound up in an orphanage. Like other children who were adopted I’ve talked to over the years, she is grateful. “I’m not upset,” she says. “I think that was really brave. ... I have so much love for her, my mom, because she gave me life.”

In an interview for Celebrate Life magazine, Long said: “If my mom had not given me up, I wouldn’t

be where I am now. ... And so, I really hope that people see my story and realize that adoption can be a wonderful thing.”

She acknowledges, too, that her story isn’t typical. “I got a lot of sweet messages about healing. ... Not every situation is going to be as happy as mine ended up being. It was pretty rare that my (birth) parents still ended up being together and then having three more children. ... I hope that for some people, it helped them to forgive and to learn from it.”

And, oddly enough, because of a Super Bowl commercial, we ought to learn too: that life is possible even in the most arduous circumstances. And it can be beautiful if we care enough to love.

Kathryn Jean Lopez is senior fellow at the National Review Institute, editor-at-large of National Review magazine and author of the new book “A Year With the Mystics: Visionary Wisdom for Daily Living.” She is also chair of Cardinal Dolan’s pro-life commission in New York. She can be contacted at klopez@nationalreview.com.

Carol Elaine Baer

June 11, 1959 – Feb. 13, 2021

Carol Elaine Baer, 61, of Wabash, Indiana, died at 7 a.m., Saturday, Feb. 13, 2021 at her home. She was born June 11, 1959 in Rochester, Indiana, to Richard Albert and Alice Louise (Turnipseed) Graf.

Carol was a 1977 graduate of Wabash High School. She married Randall J. Baer at the Wabash Christian Church on Oct. 22, 1977. Carol was a cook at Metro North Elementary School. She was a member of the Zion Lutheran Church, in Wabash. Carol enjoyed shopping, was a good cook, but her family was her life.

She is survived by her husband, Randall J. Baer of Wabash, two sons, Mark Baer of Auburn, Indiana, and Morgan (Christal) Baer of Amarillo, Texas, five grandchildren, Aiden Baer and Phoenix Baer, both of Auburn, Addison Baer, Emma Baer, and Wyatt



Baer, all of Amarillo, brother, Richie (Janice) Graf and sister-in-law, Dana Graf, both of Wabash, IN, and several nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents, and her brother, Thomas Graf.

Funeral services will be 10 a.m. Friday, Febr. 19, 2021, at Zion Lutheran Church, 173 Hale Drive, Wabash, with Pastor Jerry Gauthier officiating. Burial will be in Memorial Lawns Cemetery, Wabash. Friends may call 4 p.m. -7 p.m. Thursday, at Grandstaff-Hentgen Funeral Service, 1241 Manchester Avenue, Wabash, and one hour prior to the service Friday, at the church.

Preferred memorials are Parkview Home Health and Hospice or Zion Lutheran Church.

The memorial guest book for Carol may be signed at www.grandstaff-hentgen.com.

Ronald Lee Garlits

Ronald Lee Garlits, 78, of Wabash, passed away Feb. 13, 2021.

Ron is survived by his wife, Dolores; sons, Robert Garlits and James (Tawnya) Garlits; one brother, Robert (Lenna) Garlits; and five grandchildren.

Mass of Christian Burial services will be at 10 a.m. on Friday, Feb. 19, 2021 at St. Bernard Catholic

Church, 207 North Cass Street, Wabash.

Calling hours will be on Thursday, February 18, 2021, from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m., at McDonald Funeral Homes, 231 Falls Avenue, Wabash. Recitation of the Rosary will follow at 7 p.m.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.mcdonaldfunerals.com.

Lulu M. Baker

Lulu M. Baker, 78, of Wabash, passed away at 3:32 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 13, 2021.

Lulu married William M. Baker on July 29, 1961; he passed away on July 8, 2011.

Lulu is survived by her daughters, Kelly Baker and Chris Bruss; grandchildren, Cassie (Nathan) Fletcher, William Miller, Nickolas (Sara) Bruss,

Brandon (Kala) Miller and Angel (Levi) Staats and eight great-grandchildren.

Per Lulu’s request, there will be no services.

Arrangements have been entrusted to McDonald Funeral Homes, 231 Falls Avenue, Wabash, Indiana 46992.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.mcdonaldfunerals.com.

Robert Weber

Dec. 15, 1948 – Feb. 15, 2021

Robert Weber, 72, North Manchester, died Feb. 15, 2021. He was born Dec. 15, 1948 to Edward and Inez Weber.

He is survived by wife, Iris; children, Sue Ann (David) Julian, Rylan (Brittany) Weber, and Hannah Weber and friend Denis Meletiche; and four grandchildren.

Calling Wednesday, Feb.

17, 2021 from 2 p.m. – 5 p.m. and 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. at the Eel River Old German Baptist Brethren Church, 2026 East 1200 South, Silver Lake. Funeral services will begin Thursday, Feb. 18, 2021 at 10a.m. at the Eel River Old German Baptist Brethren Church.

Arrangements are entrusted to McKee Mortuary.

JAIL

From page A1

layer want to make a lot of money,” said Hauptert. “The key thing is once we get the architect hired, he’s going to know what the estimate is and he is going to be responsible for that. I would like to get an architect hired to see where we end up.”

Pearson said this would go against the trend of other municipalities in the state she had researched.

“Why are we getting pushed in a direction no one else is going in? I’m not liking where we’re going with this so far, but I’m just one person,” said Pearson.

At Large councilmember Philip Dale said he also supported the going “through the collaborative approach because that’s kind of following what the industry is.”

District 3 councilmember Sam Hann said he would “rather have a maximum price, so we know it’s not going to go over that.”

“At least taxpayers know

what they’re getting themselves into,” said Hann. “I don’t like the risk of a construction project. I’ve never heard of a perfect construction project.”

At Large councilmember Matthew Dillon said he could see both sides of the argument.

“I actually appreciate the commissioners trying to chip away at the dollar price as low as it can be. I think that’s a great thing. At the same time, if we’re kind of doing something that’s out of what everyone else is doing it makes me wonder where we’re cutting corners,” said Dillon.

At Large councilmember Lorissa Sweet said she was worried about how prices could fluctuate in the future.

“My biggest concern is the way the economy is going right now if we get a hard bid and we don’t know what’s going to happen and we could get a significant increase in the price of building products,” said Sweet.

Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer editor, may be reached by email at rburgess@wabashplainedeal.com.

CHILDCARE

From page A1

supported the effort.

District 1 commissioner Brian K. Hauptert said he applauded Grow Wabash County and CFWC for their efforts in applying for these funds.

“I find it necessary in the times we’re going through,” said Hauptert.

District 2 commissioner

and chairman Jeff D. Dawes said he was “very grateful” to these two organizations for their work on this issue.

“Childcare has always been an important part of our community and COVID-19 has even brought that more to the attention and pointed out our deficiencies,” said Dawes.

Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer editor, may be reached by email at rburgess@wabashplainedeal.com.

VACCINE

From page A1

Wabash County Museum, where the first doses were administered.

“We are holding no vaccination clinics at the Wabash County Historical Museum,” said Custer-Mitchell. “We are only doing then in Legacy Hall at this time.”

Long said they had given over 715 vaccinations the previous week at the Honeywell Center, and anticipated about that many this week also. Long said Wabash County is receiving 800 doses per week in anticipation of a greater population signing up that meets the age criteria.

The ISDH’s COVID-19 vaccination dashboard is updated daily at noon with data current as of 5 a.m. the same day. Statewide, 11,331 people had their first dose administered Monday, while 10,691 more were fully vaccinated. To date, 828,078 Hoosiers have received a first dose of vaccine, and 347,508 are fully vaccinated.

In Wabash County to date, 4,519 people had their first dose, while 1,289 had both doses. And in Wabash County on Monday, 13 people had their first dose, while 88 had their second dose.

Hoosiers age 65 and older, along with health-care workers, long-term care residents and first responders who are regularly called to the scene of an emergency to render medical assistance, are now eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine. To schedule, visit <https://ourshot.in.gov> or call 211 if you do not have access to a computer or require assistance. Individuals must show proof that they live or work in Indiana and meet the eligibility criteria to receive a vaccine.

Additional locations and appointments are being added as more vaccine become available, according to the ISDH.

Long-term care facilities

The ISDH’s long-term care facilities dashboard was updated at noon Wednesday, Feb. 10 with results as of Wednesday, Feb. 3. New positive cases and deaths have occurred over a range of dates but were reported to the ISDH seven days before the last dashboard update.

In Wabash County, only Bickford of Wabash reported no cases.

Otherwise, during the latest update, in Wabash County:

- Timbercrest Senior Living Community in

North Manchester reported 10 total resident positive cases, fewer than five total resident deaths and 47 staff positive cases.

- Peabody Retirement Community in North Manchester reported 54 total resident positive cases, nine total resident deaths and 124 staff positive cases.
- Wellbrooke of Wabash reported 29 total resident positive cases, 10 total resident deaths and 23 staff positive cases.
- Autumn Ridge Rehabilitation Centre reported 19 total positive cases, fewer than five total resident deaths and 15 staff positive cases.
- Vernon Health and Rehabilitation reported 36 total resident positive cases, fewer than five total resident deaths and 27 staff positive cases.
- Rolling Meadows Health Care Centre in LaFontaine reported 56 total resident positive cases, 13 total resident deaths and 15 staff positive cases.
- Miller’s Merry Manor – Wabash East reported fewer than five new resident deaths, 50 total resident positive cases, seven total resident deaths and 32 staff positive cases.
- Miller’s Merry Manor – Wabash West reported fewer than five new resident deaths, five total resident positive cases, fewer than five total resident deaths and 14 staff positive cases.

School figures

The ISDH’s school dashboard was updated Monday, Feb. 15 with data as of 11:59 p.m. Friday, Feb. 12. The dashboard is updated weekly at noon Mondays.

Statewide, 158 schools reported no cases, 1,920 reported one or more case and 290 have not reported.

In Wabash County, only White’s Jr./Sr. High School has reported to the ISDH that they have no cases.

During the latest update, Wabash County schools with one or more confirmed cases included:

- Manchester Jr./Sr. High School (MHS) reported 51 total student positive cases, 11 total teacher positive cases and nine total staff positive cases.
- Manchester Elementary School (MES) reported six total student positive cases, fewer than five total teacher positive cases and fewer than five total staff positive cases.
- Manchester Intermediate School (MIS) reported fewer than five new teacher positive cases, eight total student positive cases and fewer than five total teacher positive cases.
- Metro North Elementary School reported fewer than five each total student positive cases, total teach-

er positive cases and total staff positive cases.

- Heartland Career Center reported fewer than five total staff positive cases.
- Sharp Creek Elementary School reported six total student positive cases, fewer than five total teacher positive cases and fewer than five total staff positive cases.
- Northfield Jr./Sr. High School (NHS) reported 39 total student positive cases, six total teacher positive cases and eight total staff positive cases.
- O.J. Neighbours Elementary School reported fewer than five new student positive cases, 11 total student positive cases, 10 total teacher positive cases and fewer than five total staff positive cases.
- Wabash Middle School reported 12 total student positive cases, fewer than five total teacher positive cases and fewer than five total staff positive cases.
- Wabash High School reported 15 total student positive cases, fewer than five total teacher positive cases and fewer than five total staff positive cases.
- St. Bernard Elementary School reported fewer than five each new student positive cases, total student positive cases and total teacher positive cases.
- Southwood Jr./Sr. High School (SHS) reported 16 total student positive cases, fewer than five total teacher positive cases and fewer than five total staff positive cases.
- Southwood Elementary School reported fewer than five each total student positive cases, total teacher positive cases and total staff positive cases.

Since Jan. 28, the individually reported MCS data includes one case at MIS, with two people quarantined on Feb. 9.

Schools of higher learning are not listed on the ISDH schools dashboard.

However, Manchester University maintains its own, separate dashboard. On-campus COVID-19 testing began again the week of Jan. 4. Updates to this dashboard will be made each Friday to reflect the current week of testing and the semester to date. As of Friday, Feb. 12, a total of 602 tests were performed last week, with 100 percent being negative. There have been 1,593 total tests performed this semester, with 99.6 percent of them being negative, and 0.4 percent of them being positive. This week, there has been four self-reported cases on the North Manchester campus, and no self-reported cases on the Fort Wayne campus. This semester, there have been six self-reported cases on the North Man-

chester campus, and four self-reported cases on the Fort Wayne campus.

Local figures

- On Saturday, the ISDH reported five new local positive COVID-19 cases, bringing Wabash County’s total to 3,242, with 13,776 tests. The local seven-day positivity rating for all tests was 4.8 percent. The local seven-day positivity rating for unique individuals was 17.8 percent.
- On Sunday, the ISDH reported seven new local positive COVID-19 cases, bringing Wabash County’s total to 3,249, with 13,814 tests. The local seven-day positivity rating for all tests was 4.8 percent. The local seven-day positivity rating for unique individuals was 17.1 percent.
- On Monday, the ISDH reported two new local positive COVID-19 cases, bringing Wabash County’s total to 3,251, with 13,843 tests. The local seven-day positivity rating for all tests was 3.9 percent. The local seven-day positivity rating for unique individuals was 17.6 percent.
- On Tuesday, the ISDH reported three new local positive COVID-19 cases, bringing Wabash County’s total to 3,256, with 13,844 tests. The local seven-day positivity rating for all tests was 4.1 percent. The local seven-day positivity rating for unique individuals was 18.1 percent. Also, on Tuesday, the ISDH reported Wabash County’s 74th COVID-19 death.

Statewide figures

On Tuesday, the ISDH announced that 889 additional Hoosiers have been diagnosed with COVID-19 through testing at state and private laboratories. That brings to 650,530 the number of Indiana residents now known to have had the novel coronavirus following corrections to the previous day’s dashboard.

A total of 11,805 Hoosiers are confirmed to have died from COVID-19, an increase of 40 from the previous day. Another 426 probable deaths have been reported based on clinical diagnoses in patients for whom no positive test is on record.

To date, 3,057,498 unique individuals have been tested in Indiana, up from 3,049,828 on Monday. A total of 7,593,841 tests, including repeat tests for unique individuals, have been reported to the ISDH since Feb. 26, 2020.

To find testing sites around the state, visit www.coronavirus.in.gov and click on the COVID-19 testing information link.

Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer editor, may be reached by email at rburgess@wabashplainedeal.com.

ANNOUNCEMENTS	Special Notice	Special Notice	Special Notice	Administrative	Administrative	Professional	OPEN HOUSE
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Special Notice

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Special Notice

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Legals

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Wabash County Indiana Sheriff's Office + Jail Project - AE Selection

This is an invitation to provide a request for proposal (RFP) for the above-mentioned project for Wabash County Indiana, hereinafter referred to as "Owner".

A. Project Information

1. Project Name:
Wabash County Indiana Sheriff's Office + Jail Project – AE Selection

2. Project Description:
Selection of the architect/engineer for the design and engineering for a new sheriff's of-
fice and jail facility located at 1335 Manchester Ave (SR13) in Wabash Indiana.

3. RFP Prepared By:
PYRAMID Consulting
203 Good Ave.
Indianapolis, IN 46219
Phone: 317-396-9426
Fax: 317-396-9427

B. RFP Format

1. The RFP includes a scoring system, which is included in the project documents. A
selection committee has been established by the Owner to score the RFP.

C. RFP Documents

1. RFP documents will be made available after 2:00 p.m., February 17, 2021.

2. This is an invitation to provide a request for proposal for architecture and engineering
services for a new Wabash County Sheriff's office and jail facility. The scope does
not include site development, which will be under a separate agreement by the Owner.
Documents may be reviewed and obtained at the following location:

a. Wabash County Auditor's Office
1 West Hill Street
Wabash, IN 46992

3. There is no charge for the RFP documents.

4. There is a pre-submission meeting at 2:00pm (local time) on February 24, 2021 at the
Grow Wabash County Office located at 214 S. Wabash St, Wabash, IN 47992. For
those unable to attend, a virtual meeting will be available as listed below:
Wabash County Sheriff Office + Jail AE RFP Pre-Submission Mtg
Wed, Feb 24, 2021 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (EST)

Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.
https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/630483309

You can also dial in using your phone.
United States: +1 (571) 317-3122

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starts:
https://global.gotomeeting.com/install/630483309

5. Direct all questions to Pyramid by e-mail at tburnworth@pyramidarch.com .

D. RFP Delivery:

1. RFP's shall be sent or delivered in person to:
Wabash County Auditor's Office
1 West Hill Street
Wabash, IN 46992

2. Faxed or e-mailed responses will not be accepted.

3. RFP's will be received at the Wabash County Auditor's Office until 9:am (local time),
Monday, March 15, 2021 (This will be considered "due time" unless subsequently
revised by addendum) and will be publicly announced at the same date-time. RFP's
received after "due time" will be returned unopened.

4. RFP's are required to enclose with each quotation the following forms:

a. State Form 95 (signed and notarized)

b. Stipulated Offer Form

5. Label the outside of the envelope indicating project name as well as the vender's
name and address.

E. Miscellaneous Provisions

1. The Owner reserves the right to reject any RFP, or all RFPs, or to accept any RFP that
may seem desirable, and to waive any and all informalities in the RFPs. Any RFP may
be withdrawn prior to the above scheduled time for the opening of the RFPs or autho-
rized postponement thereof. Any RFP received after the time and date specified shall
not be considered. The Owner reserves the right to accept or reject any RFP or waive
any informality or errors in RFP for a period of 90 days after the RFP due time.

2. All applicable laws, ordinances, and the rules and regulations of all authorities having
jurisdiction over the project shall apply to the project throughout.

3. RFPs shall be properly and completely executed on offer forms included in the Project
Documents. The Owner may make such investigations as deemed necessary to
determine the ability of the Vender to perform the work and the Vender shall furnish to
the Owner all such information and data for this purpose as the Owner may request.
The Owner reserves the right to reject any RFP if the evidence submitted by, or investi-
gation of, such Vender fails to satisfy the Owner that such Vender is properly qualified
to carry out the obligations of the Agreement and to complete the work contemplated
therein.

hspaxlp.2/17/2021, 2/24/2021

General Help

The City of Marion will be accepting applications through Friday, February 26th for the following position:

Transportation is seeking applicants for a part-time bus driver position.

Job responsibilities:
Operates a bus along a predetermined route in a safe, timely, and courteous manner for the conveyance of passengers.

Qualifications:
Must possess valid Commercial Driver's License (CDL) with appropriate endorse-
ments (or ability to obtain one within six (6) months); must be a minimum of twenty-five (25) years of age; must have no more than two (2) points on driving record within past two (2) years; must have at least one (1) year of experience driving a manual transmis-
sion vehicle; must pass Department of Transportation phys-
ical examination and drug screen.

To apply:
Mail application (available at City Hall in the Controller's Office or on our website at www.cityofmarion.in.gov) to
City of Marion,
Attn: Human Resources, 301 S. Branson St., Marion, IN 46952.

General Help

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Skilled Trade

Toolmaker/ machinist:
Looking to hire 1-2 full time employees for small local Tool and Die shop. Candidates must have previous experience in the trade. CNC lathe, CNC mill, manual mill and lathe experience a plus. Hourly \$18-30/hr based on experience. Benefits negotiable. Must be able to lift 50lbs, have own transportation, own tools and willingness to want to work. Please send resume to setd@cinergymetro.net.

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Legals

TO THE OWNERS OF THE WITHIN DESCRIBED REAL ESTATE AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES
NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE
Sheriff Sale File number: 85-21 -0005-SS
Date & Time of Sale:
Tuesday, April 13, 2021 at 10:00 am
Sale Location:
Wabash County Sheriffs Department Base-
ment Miami St Entrance, 79 W Main Street
Judgment to be Satisfied: \$126,065.52
Cause Number: 85D01-2009-MF-000625
Plaintiff: BLUESKY CAPITAL LLC
Defendant: TIFFANY DIAMOND
By virtue of a certified copy of a decree to me,
directed from the Clerk of Superior/Circuit
Court of Wabash County Indiana, requiring me
to make the sum as provided for in said DE-
CREE, with interest and cost, I will expose at
public sale to the highest bidder at the date,
time and location listed above, the fee simple
of the whole body of Real Estate, a certain
tract or parcel of land described as follows:
The following described real estate situated in
Wabash County, State of Indiana: A part of Re-
serve 18, Township 26 North, Range 6 East in
the City of Wabash, Indiana, being more partic-
ularly described as follows, to-wit: Beginning at
a stone marked "3" near the south bank of the
Wabash River, said stone being located south
91.74 feet; thence S 80 degrees 15 minutes E
656.04 from the Northwest corner of said Re-
serve 18; thence South 646.8 feet; thence N
77 degrees 30 minutes 477.84 feet; thence N
68 degrees E 12.2 feet to a point in the North-
erly line of Chestnut Street; thence along said
Northerly line N 41 degrees 14 minutes E
181.0 feet; thence along a curve to the right of
218.20 feet radius 58.2 feet; thence N 72 de-
grees 46 minutes W 43.3 feet; thence S 45 de-
grees 48 minutes W 128.45 feet; thence S 62
degrees 11 minutes W 50.74 feet; thence N 83
degrees 66 minutes W 85.30 feet; thence N 11
degrees 38 minutes W 173.45 feet; thence N
66 degrees 26 minutes E 158.38 feet; thence
N 66 degrees 05 minutes E 103.40 feet;
thence N 66 degrees 29 minutes E 44.30 feet;
thence N 1 degree 09 minutes E 75.00 feet to
a point in the south bank of the Wabash River;
thence along said bank in a Northwesterly di-
rection to a point 92.4 feet North of the place
beginning; thence South 92.4 feet to the place
of beginning, containing 6.71 acres, more less.
Subject to highways, right-of-ways, easements
and restrictions of record.
Commonly Known as: 200 CHESTNUT
STREET, WABASH, IN 46992
Parcel No. 85-14-58-200-001.000-009
Together with rents, issues, income and profits
thereof, this sale will be made without relief
from valuation or appraisal laws. In ac-
cordance to the requirements of IC 32-29-7-3,
this Notice shall also represent service of No-
tice of Sale of this real estate upon the owners.
* An entire Sheriffs Sale may be canceled due
to inclement weather or other county emergen-
cies. If the entire Sheriff's Sale is cancelled,
each parcel will be cancelled. Each parcel will
be assigned to the next available sale (nor-
mally 2 months from original sale). This will al-
low compliance with Indiana Code concerning
posting, publication, and serving time frames.
Also, new Sheriffs Sale fees will be assessed
and the parcels will be automatically re-advert-
ised. The plaintiff will be responsible for the
new fees and advertising costs.
David M Bengs, Plaintiffs Attorney
Attorney No. 16646-20
Marinosci Law Group, PC
455 West Lincolnway, Suite B
Valparaiso, IN 46385
(219)531-3508
Ryan Baker, Sheriff
by Connie Rich, Administrative Assistant
Phone: (260) 563-8891
Noble Township
The Sheriffs Department does not warrant the
accuracy of the commonly known address pub-
lished herein.
PLEASE SERVE:
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WEST COVINA.CA 91790
TIFFANY DIAMOND
200 CHESTNUT STREET
WABASH, IN 46992
HSPAXLP.02/17,02/24,03/03/2020

Auction Sales

MARION Phil Canaday Estate & Others Auction, Sat. Feb. 20 10 am, 5243 S Adams St., Marion Furniture, lift chairs, quality jewelry, appliances, tools, mobility chair, lots of primitives & collectibles, misc. Price-Leffler Auctioneers 765-674-4818 www.priceleffler.com 2 rings, mask for entry.

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1 BR 1606 W Jeffras St; \$100/wk; tenant pays electric

1 BR 215 E 3rd St; \$150/wk; basic utilities included

2 BR 605 W 3rd St; \$140/wk; basic utilities included

2 BR 616 S Boots St; \$100/wk; tenant pays electric

2 BR 624 S Boots St; \$130-150/wk; basic utilities included

2 BR 509 E Bradford St; \$165-175/wk; basic utilities included

2 BR 215 E 3rd St; \$170/wk; basic utilities included

3 BR 616 S Boots St; \$125/wk; tenant pays electric

3 BR 311 E Sherman St; \$160/wk; tenant pays utilities

JONESBORO 2 BR 224 E 10th St; \$120/wk; tenant pays electric

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MARION

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3 BR 104 S Race St; \$500/mo; tenant pays all utilities

3 BR 501 W 1st St; \$500/mo; tenant pays all utilities

3 BR, 2 BA 1009 N Oxford Dr; \$700/mo; tenant pays all utilities

3 BR 1208 E 30th St; \$600/mo; tenant pays all utilities

3 BR 1619 E Jeffras St; \$600/mo; tenant pays all utilities

3 BR, 2 BA 1621 S Boot St; \$600/mo; tenant pays all utilities

Converse 2 BR 909 E Wabash St; \$600/mo; tenant pays all utilities

Call us at 765-662-1499 or visit our website www.hoosierrentalgroup.com for more information

Rooms for Rent

MARION, IN Large furnished bedroom for rent in a large private home near MGH, 1.5 acres, pond. \$350/395 mo or \$100/weekly upon approval, plus \$200 deposit. All utilities, kitchen, pantry, 1/2 frig, TV, WIFI, Cable, HBO, SHO, MAX, STARZ, parking included Working preferred. call for more information, Jim or Diane (916)995-4400

Wanted to Rent

Marion, IN Looking to Rent 4bd 2bath house Grant County Family of 6, has references & cats Call 765-660-2332

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

Homes for Sale

3002 Koldyke Dr. Marion, will be sold at Auction on Tue. Feb. 23rd at 6pm at Eventually Yours Event Center 5243 S. Adams St., Marion, IN. Price-Leffler Auctioneers 765-674-4818, call for more information.

Monuments/ Cemeteries

Marion, IN 4 burial plots at Garden of Memory in Marion, Indiana. Available in the Garden of Hymns. Would be willing to sell as 'Buy 3, Get 1 Free.' 217-417-5349

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Senate panels call former Capitol Police chief to testify

By **MARY CLARE JALONICK**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Senate has announced its first hearings to examine the Jan. 6 siege of the Capitol, calling in the former chief of Capitol Police and the former heads of security for the House and Senate, all three of whom resigned immediately after the attack.

Two Senate committees will meet next week to begin a broad examination of the security failures that led to the vast breach, in which five people died. In addition to the Feb. 23 hearing, the two committees are pressing for information from almost two dozen agencies and departments about the response.

The Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee and the Senate Rules Committee announced Tuesday that they had invited former Capitol Police Chief Steven Sund, former Senate Sergeant at Arms Michael Stenger and former House Sergeant at Arms Paul Irving to the hearing, along with Robert Contee, the chief of the Metropolitan Police Department.

The security breakdown that day, as the House and Senate met for a joint session to count electoral votes, was severe. The Capitol Police had planned for a free speech demonstration, not a violent insurrection by supporters of former President

Donald Trump to overturn the election.

With a diminished security presence, the rioters not only breached the Capitol but entered the Senate chamber minutes after senators had fled and tried to break through the doors of the House chamber with lawmakers still inside. Outside, they engaged in hand-to-hand combat with an outnumbered, ill-prepared Capitol Police force, eventually assisted by D.C. police.

The acting chief of the Capitol Police, Yogananda Pittman, has acknowledged the department knew before Jan. 6 that extremists and white supremacists could be in the crowd outside the Capitol, but she and other leaders are

still pointing fingers about who was responsible for not bolstering security.

In the aftermath, tall fences and barbed wire now surround the Capitol, cutting off streets and laying out a wide perimeter. Thousands of National Guard troops line the fences and protect the halls.

The hearing was announced by Senate Homeland Chairman Gary Peters, D-Mich.; the Homeland panel's top Republican, Ohio Sen. Rob Portman; Senate Rules Committee Chairwoman Amy Klobuchar, D-Minn., and the top Republican on the Rules panel, Missouri Sen. Roy Blunt.

The Senate announcement

comes after House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said Monday that the House will move to establish an independent, Sept. 11-style commission to look into the insurrection. Legislation to set up the commission could be introduced as soon as this week, according to a person familiar with the process. The person was granted anonymity to discuss the planning.

Pelosi said the commission will "investigate and report on the facts and causes" relating to the attack and "the interference with the peaceful transfer of power."

At the White House, press secretary Jen Psaki said President Joe Biden supports the formation of a

commission. Biden "backs efforts to shed additional light on the facts to ensure something like that never happens again," she said.

In a letter to Democratic colleagues, Pelosi said the House will also put forth supplemental spending to boost security at the Capitol.

Other investigations are also planned. Pelosi, D-Calif., asked retired Army Lt. Gen. Russel Honoré to lead an immediate review of the Capitol's security process, and several other committees are looking into different aspects of the insurrection.

In her letter, Pelosi said, "It is clear from his findings and from the impeachment trial that we must get to the truth of how this happened."



Joseph Prezioso / AFP via Getty Images / TNS

Close to 700 doses of the Moderna Covid-19 Vaccine will be given out today at Central Falls High School in Central Falls, Rhode Island on February 13.

Plummeting cases in U.S. show a path to crushing COVID-19

By **JILL R. SHAH**
and **EMMA COURT**
Bloomberg News (TNS)

COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations are dropping dramatically across the U.S., suggesting that measures to interrupt transmission are working, at least for now.

More than 27.6 million Americans have tested positive, likely giving them some degree of immunity. A rising number – 11.8 percent of the population – has now received at least one dose of a vaccine. And data gathered from mobile phones suggest people are being more cautious day-to-day. If cases keep falling, it could buy time for the vaccination effort to take hold in the warm summer months ahead, potentially underpinning a long-sought economic recovery.

Health experts, though, anticipate challenges. Inoculations need to outpace highly contagious variants from the U.K. and South Africa that are now in the U.S. And the upcoming holidays – Spring Break, Easter and Mother's Day included – hold the threat of group gatherings that can swiftly boost the virus's spread.

"The history of surges is they do come down," said Robert Wachter, chair of the department of medicine at the University of California-San Francisco. "They generally come down from some combination of changes in behavior, changes in government policy and the impact of immunity."

Infectious disease experts agree it's way too early to call an end to the pandemic. The declines follow a surge tied to the Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday season, and infection levels remain roughly on par with trends from last fall at around 91,000 new cases confirmed daily.

Rochelle Walensky, head of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, on Sunday rang a warning bell. "We are nowhere out of the woods," she said on

CBS's "Face the Nation," adding that "now is the time to double down" on mitigation efforts.

If those efforts are relaxed "with increasingly transmissible variants out there," she said, "we could be in a much more difficult spot."

Walensky's warning comes as some states, including Iowa and Montana, ease mandates on mask wearing and as the CDC emphasizes that tamping down community spread is key to safely reopening schools – a priority of the Biden administration.

Early on, the country experienced regional surges in the northeast last spring, Sun Belt states in the summer and Midwest and Western states through the fall. However, the latest surge worsened nearly everywhere in January, producing the deadliest month so far.

Since then, the numbers have leveled off or declined. Ali Mokdad, a professor of health metrics at the University of Washington's Institute of Health Metrics and Evaluation, said that after the holiday surge, Americans began to behave much more cautiously.

"If you look at our data, the week after Thanksgiving, the week after Christmas, it was dead silence," Mokdad said. "People stayed at home, even cell-phone calls went down."

The country is still far short of herd immunity, the time when the country has so much protection from the dominant strain that it can no longer spread effectively. That will likely require 70 percent to 85 percent of the 330 million Americans be either vaccinated or have natural protection, experts say.

At the present vaccination rate, enough doses will have been administered by Spring Break in mid-March to cover about 15 percent of the U.S. population with two doses, according to the Bloomberg vaccine tracker. By Easter Sunday, that will rise to about 20 percent and by Mother's Day enough shots

could be given to cover close to 30 percent of Americans. And these estimates, based on vaccination rates over the last week, should rise substantially as more vaccine supply becomes available.

Still, the highly-contagious U.K. variant, known by scientists as B.1.1.7, is already tied to about 1 percent to 4 percent of U.S. infections and is predicted to become the dominant strain by late March or April, according to Gregory Armstrong, director of the Advanced Molecular Detection Program at the CDC.

That may set up a race between vaccine dispersals, which are likely to rise, and the ability of the virus to spread among Americans who aren't yet immunized, some experts say.

Armstrong emphasized in an interview that the mutation today remains at relatively low levels. Even if the U.K. variant – which is believed to be 50 percent more transmissible – accounted for 10 percent of all known infections, it would drive cases up by just 5 percent, according to Armstrong.

That's "small enough that we're not even going to be able to detect it," Armstrong said.

Still, as the variant becomes more prevalent, adherence to measures like mask-wearing, social distancing and vaccination will have to be even better to prevent infections from increasing, he added.

Researchers at Cedars-Sinai recently claimed to have found a U.S. variant in California linked to the holiday season in Los Angeles. That finding has prompted new concern about the role being played to date by the new mutations.

"There's no consensus yet on what to think of that," Armstrong said. "Across the U.S., what's happened in the last several months, this surge that peaked in the beginning of January, a lot of people have looked at this and have not seen anything in the virus itself that would

explain it."

In contrast, B.1.1.7 already made up about 80 percent of cases in parts of the U.K. by the time early concerns were raised about it, Armstrong said.

The U.S., however, lags behind many other countries, including the U.K., in its genomic surveillance, in which scientists use genetic data to track the spread of different strains of a disease.

In the near term, new dominant variants can be expected to exert counter pressure to the forces that are driving cases lower. Meanwhile, holiday seasons and big events that traditionally draw people together have often matched up with case surges.

A stretch of new events and holidays – from the recent Super Bowl and Chinese New Year to Mardi Gras, St. Patrick's Day and then Passover and Easter in April – are expected to test social distancing commitments moving forward.

"Which one wins and whether we have a fourth surge is sort of the great unknown at this point," said Wachter at the University of California-San Francisco.

Last year's Mardi Gras festival dramatically accelerated transmission in Louisiana, eventually leading to secondary localized epidemics throughout the South, according to a preprint by scholars at The Scripps Research Institute and Tulane University.

Eventually, COVID-19 may reach an endemic state and become seasonal like other coronaviruses, the common cold and influenza, said Brian Fisher, a senior scholar at the Penn Center for Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics. The endemic state will still need to be addressed with vaccines, he said, including updated ones.

"Now, how we get there is up for debate, and there likely will be some increased periods of increased transmission still ahead," he said.

Hospitals still ration medical N95 masks as stockpiles swell

By **JASON DEAREN,**
JULIET LINDERMAN
and **MARTHA MENDOZA**
Associated Press

Mike Bowen's warehouse outside Fort Worth, Texas, was piled high with cases of medical-grade N95 face masks. His company, Prestige Ameritech, can churn out 1 million masks every four days, but he doesn't have orders for nearly that many. So he recently got approval from the government to export them.

"I'm drowning in these respirators," Bowen said.

On the same day 1,000 miles north, Mary Turner, a COVID-19 intensive care nurse at a hospital outside Minneapolis, strapped on the one disposable N-95 respirator allotted for her entire shift.

Before the coronavirus pandemic, Turner would have thrown out her mask and grabbed a new one after each patient to prevent the spread of disease. But on this day, she'll wear that mask from one infected person to the next because N95s – they filter out 95 percent of infectious particles – have supposedly been in short supply since last March.

Turner's employer, North Memorial Health, said in a statement that supplies have stabilized, but the company is still limiting use because "we must remain mindful of that supply" to ensure everyone's safety.

One year into the COVID-19 pandemic, many millions of N95 masks are pouring out of American factories and heading into storage. Yet doctors and nurses like Turner say there still aren't nearly enough in the "ICU rooms with high-flow oxygen and COVID germs all over."

While supply and demand issues surrounding N95 respirators are well-documented, until now the reasons for this discrepancy have been unclear.

The logistical breakdown is rooted in federal failures over the past year to coordinate supply chains and provide hospitals with clear rules about how to manage their medical equipment.

Internal government emails obtained by The Associated Press show there were deliberate decisions to withhold vital information about new mask manufacturers and availability. Exclusive trade data and interviews with manufacturers, hospital procure-

ment officials and frontline medical workers reveal a communication breakdown – not an actual shortage – that is depriving doctors, nurses, paramedics and other people risking exposure to COVID-19 of first-rate protection.

Before the pandemic, medical providers followed manufacturer and government guidelines that called for N95s to be discarded after each use, largely to protect doctors and nurses from catching infectious diseases themselves. As N95s ran short, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention modified those guidelines to allow for extended use and reuse only if supplies are "depleted," a term left undefined.

Hospitals have responded in a variety of ways, the AP has found. Some are back to pre-COVID-19, one-use-per-patient N95 protocols, but most are doling out one mask a day or fewer to each employee. Many hospital procurement officers say they are relying on CDC guidelines for depleted supplies, even if their own stockpiles are robust.

Chester "Trey" Moeller, a political appointee who served as the CDC's deputy chief of staff until President Joe Biden's inauguration last month, said efforts to increase U.S. mask production were successful, but there has since been a federal breakdown in connecting those who need them with this new supply.

"We are forcing our health care industry to reuse sanitized N95s or even worse, wear one N95 all day long," he said.

Before the pandemic tore through the U.S., the demand for N95 masks was 1.7 billion per year, with 80 percent going to industrial uses and 20 percent into medical, trade groups say. In 2021, demand for N95 masks for medical use is estimated by industry sources to be 5.7 billion.

With the increased demand and prodding from the federal government, U.S. manufacturers stepped in. Bowen's company, Prestige Ameritech, boosted production from 75,000 N95 respirators a month to almost 10 million during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Still, many hospitals are building their stockpiles over fears of a future surge, and restricting the number given directly to health care workers.

LARGE BLOCK OF PRODUCTIVE CROPLAND

AUCTION

MARCH 10th, 6:30 pm EST

MIAMI COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS | 1029 W 200 N, PERU

INSPECTION DATES: FEB. 23 & 26 | 4:00-6:00pm

PERU, IN • MIAMI COUNTY

TRACTS 1 & 2: Paw Paw Pike and 400 N

TRACTS 3 & 5: 400 N

TRACT 4: E 400 N and N 300 E

TRACT 6: E 400 N and SR 19

TRACT 7: Along E 200 N and N Paw Paw Pike

713.09 +/-

total acres

LOCATED 5-8 MILES NORTHEAST OF PERU

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Adult daughter is annoyed by her father’s playful pats

DEAR ABBY: I am 20-something years old, and my father still hits my behind sometimes. I feel it is inappropriate, but the last time I complained about it, several years ago, it didn't go over well. It also didn't stop his behavior. What else can I do?

Dear Abby



Right now all I can do is try not to place myself in a position where my behind is exposed. I no longer walk in front of him or wear leggings, and I wear oversized jackets to cover it. I'm a modest dresser. I'm not provocative. Did people back in the day normally "playfully" hit their adult daughters' behinds? – Inappropriate In Idaho

DEAR INAPPROPRIATE: No, they did not. Your daddy is acting like a dirty old man. His behavior may seem "playful" to him, but to persist after you asked him not to is not only inappropriate but also somewhat creepy.

You are an adult. No one has a right to hit, swat or put his hands on you regardless of how he claims it's intended. Tell him again that you don't like it and it makes you uncomfortable, and if he persists, he will see far less of his daughter.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I grew up in very conservative households. Since college (where we met) and moving to a large city, we have become liberal. We have friends of other races with whom we are very close, but both of our families frequently post inflammatory and offensive, racially biased comments on social media. Do we have a duty because of our beliefs and our friends to publicly object to their posts? We have previously discussed our differences with these family members, and we don't see eye to eye. – Different Now In Texas

DEAR DIFFERENT: Because you have already discussed your differences privately with these relatives, feel free to post your reaction to the offensive posts. They won't like you for it, and the rest of the tribe may gang up on you, but you and your husband will be able to look at yourselves in the mirror knowing you spoke aloud your truth.

DEAR ABBY: My wife of nine years has been faking a disability for seven of them. Yes, she was injured. However, I and many others are not convinced she's in chronic pain. She doesn't take her medication, and she functions like she did before her injury. This has had a detrimental effect on my life as well as our sons' because we have to live with her lies. When confronted, she denies it, and so does her family. – Stuck In The Lie

DEAR STUCK: Your wife should be examined by a pain management specialist. Whether she's in physical pain, psychological pain or faking can be determined by a medical doctor and possibly a licensed therapist who understands PTSD, depending upon how she was injured. For your sake, your sons' and hers, you owe it to yourselves to find out what the cause is.

Of course, this suggestion depends on your wife agreeing to the examination. If you are correct in your suspicions, you may want to rethink whether this is how you want to live the rest of your life.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

CROSSWORD

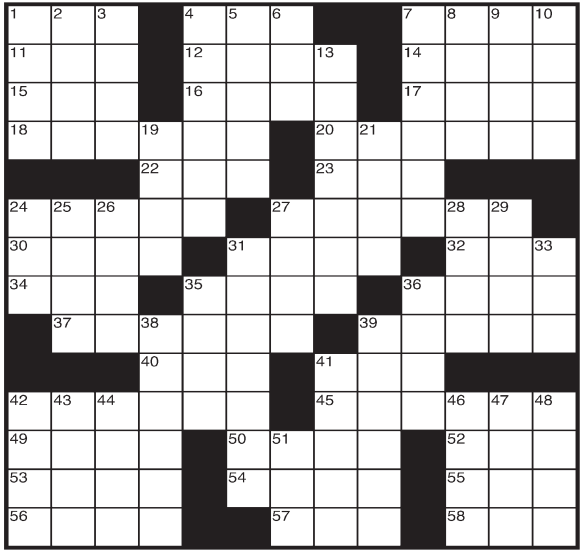
ACROSS

- 1 Vet patient
4 Roadie's gear
7 Twinge
11 Thai language
12 One-sidedness
14 Chills and fever
15 Unit of resistance
16 Cuzco founder
17 Roused
18 Fake
20 Hindu sacred river
22 Obtain
23 Sporty truck
24 Hot coffee hazard
27 Specifically
30 Flower
31 Round Table titles
32 Fleming of spydom
34 Kitchen pest
35 Roman goddess
36 Like a pittance
37 Dressing gown

DOWN

- 1 Filly's footfall
2 Pleased sighs
3 Heavy volume
4 Tolerated
5 North Dakota city
6 "— -Man Fever"
7 "Parks and Recreation" setting
8 Open-mouthed
9 Microwave, slangily
10 A few thou
13 Tall cactus
19 Unsightly
21 S&L conveniences
24 Health resort
25 Hit on the noggin
26 — spumante
27 Pedro's son
28 In — of
29 Adventure tale
31 Artificial tan source
33 Mesh fabric

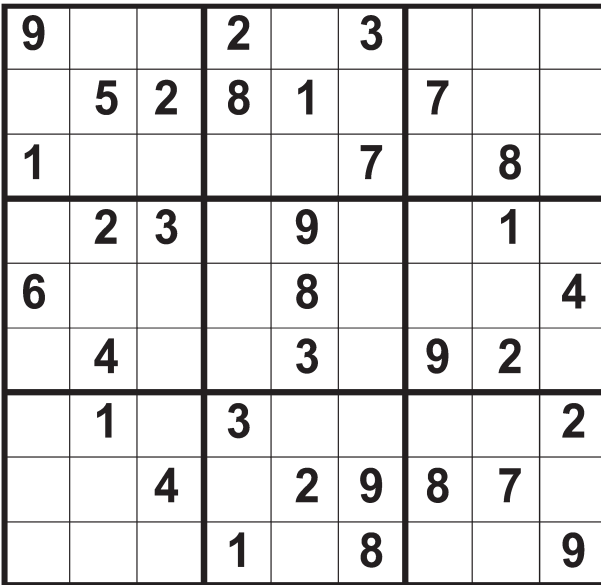
Answer to Previous Puzzle



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SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ☆☆☆☆☆



2/17 © 2021 Dist. by Andrews McMeel Syndication for UFS

How to play: Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9.

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

3	1	5	9	2	6	8	7	4
2	8	9	1	4	7	5	6	3
4	6	7	3	5	8	1	9	2
6	4	2	7	8	5	9	3	1
7	9	8	6	3	1	4	2	5
1	5	3	4	9	2	6	8	7
5	2	1	8	6	3	7	4	9
8	3	4	5	7	9	2	1	6
9	7	6	2	1	4	3	5	8

JUMBLE

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

NYHEO

LEWDL

GNAAEM

RHAWTT

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Answer here:

Saturday's

Jumbles: MINUS BOSSY KERNEL UNSAID

Answer: The store run by the baboons failed because of all the — MONKEY BUSINESS

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

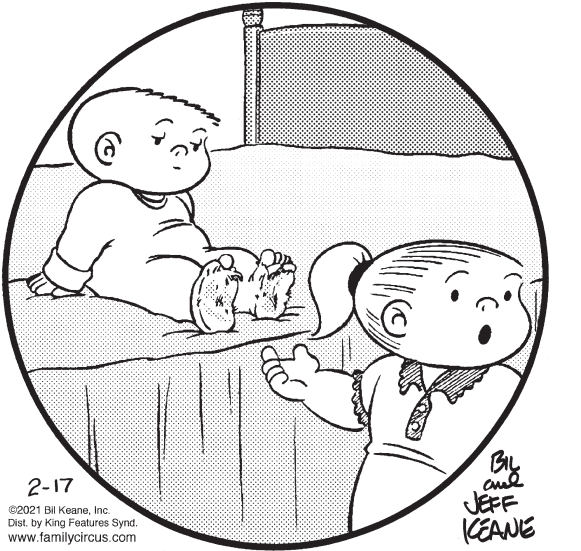


Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



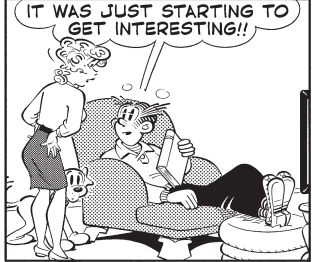
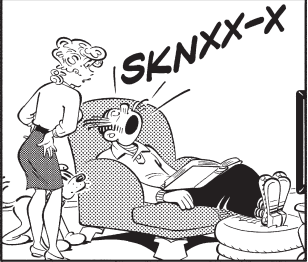
“We need to take PJ’s pajamas to the shoe repair shop.”

©2021 Bil Keane, Inc. Dist. by King Features Synd. www.familycircus.com

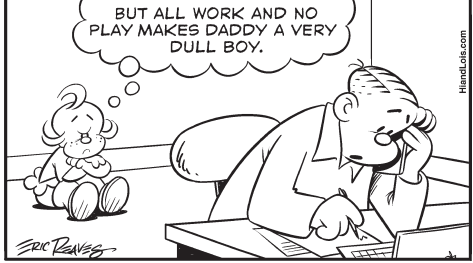
BEETLE BAILEY



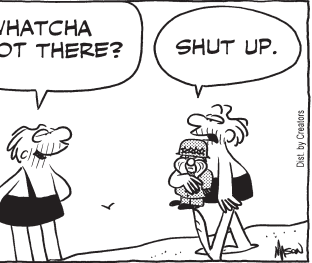
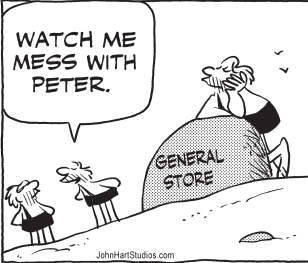
BLONDIE



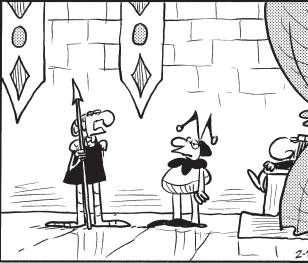
HI & LOIS



BC



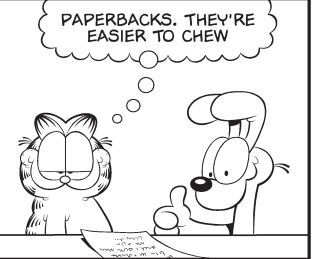
WIZARD OF ID



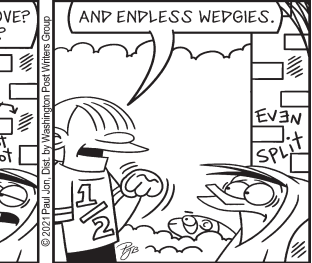
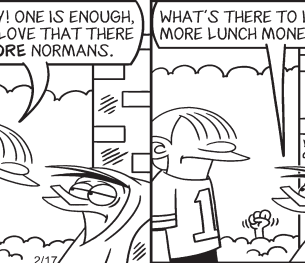
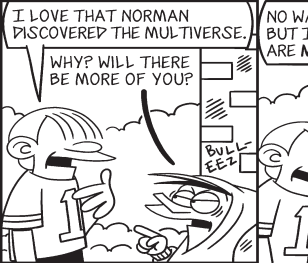
DILBERT



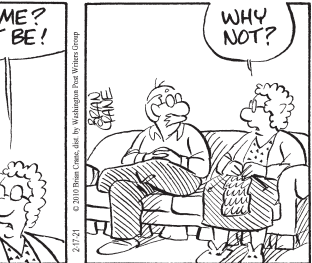
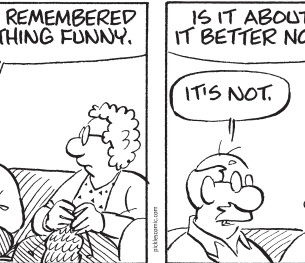
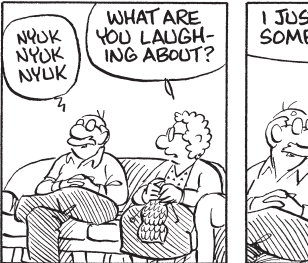
GARFIELD



FORT KNOX



PICKLES



Many believe they serve God but they actually have little time for Him

From the writings of the Rev. Billy Graham

Q: I try to live according to God's Word but my friend who is a pastor said that his good work in the ministry will win him the acceptance of Jesus. Is this sufficient to win eternal life? — G.D.

A: There are many people who spend their lives doing good deeds. This, in fact, was the story of a young man in Scripture often referred to as the Rich Young Ruler. He wanted to have assurance that he would go to Heaven someday and have eternal life, so he worked very hard to meet a spiritual criteria as he believed it. Many people today work hard to satisfy this self-inflicted expectation while forgetting the reason behind "doing good."

Many believe they serve

God but they actually have little time for Him. They spend far more time watching television than reading the Bible. They spend far more time on social media than seeking wisdom from the Lord through prayer. There is no time for God and their hearts are a long way from Him.

The Bible says that the Lord searches the heart. Think of it. The great God of Heaven searches our hearts. "I, the Lord, search the heart" (Jeremiah 17:10). He is in there probing. Scriptures tell us

that God ponders the heart of every person. "Every way of a man is right in his own eyes: but the Lord ponders the hearts (Proverbs 21:2).

We can rationalize the way we're living and that we are doing right by our own standards. But the Bible says God does not accept our evaluation and our judgment. He weighs our spiritual lives, and accepts our repentance. Then He does a wonderful thing; He promises to give us a new heart if we will submit to Him and receive His salvation.

CELEBRITY CIPHER

by Luis Campos

Celebrity Cipher cryptograms are created from quotations by famous people, past and present. Each letter in the cipher stands for another.

"V DUVRG VA LMZ NMZTX UHSJ KZD
UMZXVRV NVDU H GRVAJ, FTMMX
NMZTXR'D KMPJ MZD, YB NMZTX."
— KBVOO HRIJT

Previous Solution: "Romance is thinking about your significant other, when you are supposed to be thinking about something else." — Nicholas Sparks

TODAY'S CLUE: d s n e b e A

Opinion

SPEAK UP

How to contact your legislators:

U.S. Sen. Todd Young, R-Ind.
B33 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
1-202-224-5623
<http://young.senate.gov/contact>

U.S. Sen. Mike Braun, R-Ind.
B85 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
202-224-4814
<http://braun.senate.gov/>

U.S. Rep. Jackie Walorski, R-District 2
419 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
202-225-3915

State Sen. Andy Zay, R-District 17
Indiana Senate
200 W. Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204
1-800-382-9467
Senator.Zay@iga.in.gov

State Rep. David Wolkins, R-District 18
Indiana House
200 W. Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204
1-800-382-9841
h18@in.gov

To email any Indiana lawmaker, go to this website:
www.in.gov/cgi-bin/legislative/contact/contact.pl

LETTERS GUIDELINES

The Wabash Plain Dealer encourages your letters to the editor forum, which is designed to be a forum for exchange of ideas between readers about issues of community importance.

Please sign your letter. Your name will be used with the letter that is published in the Plain Dealer. Your letter will be returned if it is your desire to remain anonymous.

Since we may want to write or call you to verify the letter, we ask that you include your address and telephone number. All our letters to the editor are published in the interest of fair play, so we trust our letter writers will refrain from personal attacks on other persons or groups.

A letter should be less than two pages long, preferably of double-spaced typing.

In order to give everyone an opportunity to participate in this exchange of ideas, please try to limit your letters to one per month per household.

To submit a letter, please write the Wabash Plain Dealer at 99 W. Canal St., Wabash, IN 46992.

Letters also may be hand-delivered to the newspaper office, 99 W. Canal St. The office is open 9-11:30 a.m. and 1-4 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you should deliver a letter during non-business hours, a drop slot is located to the left of the front door. Letters may be faxed to 260-563-0816, or email them to news@wabashplainedeal.com with "Letters to the Editor" in the subject line.



DAILY SCRIPTURE

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 5:1

Trump's acquittal a sad day for democracy

In the end, it was clear: Donald J. Trump could have gone out onto the middle of Fifth Avenue and shot the nation's democracy, and a majority of Republicans would not have condemned him.

The country will face reverberations from Saturday's 57-43 vote to acquit Trump in future elections. Only seven Republicans had enough spine to do the patriotic thing: holding a former president from their own party accountable for inciting an attempted violent coup — let's call it what it was — while in office.

No one can claim with certainty that the anger and lawlessness unleashed at our nation's Capitol will not be directed at democracy itself again in future elections, from presidential races down to campaigns on the local level.

Republicans who voted to acquit Trump paid no heed to the evidence, put forth in meticulous fashion by House impeachment managers who provided a timeline, horrifying videos, tweets and other evidence to prove how Trump spent months fanning the flames of his big lie about a rigged election, preparing for Jan. 6, when electoral votes would be counted.

"Be there. Will be wild!" he tweeted on Dec. 19, in one of a number of tweets urging his supporters to come to D.C.

The powerful and persuasive evidence clearly demonstrated

the former president had just one thing in mind — that somehow, the violent breaching of the Capitol by his followers would open a path to a second presidential term for him. That's why he encouraged his followers to come to Washington. That's why he exhorted them to go to the Capitol and fight to overturn the results of the Nov. 3 election. That's why he sent no help and ignored pleas — some from other Republicans — to call off the mob as he saw the violence unfolding.

Trump was willing to destroy America's nearly two-and-a-half centuries of democratic rule and peaceful transfer of power for one selfish purpose: to keep himself in office.

Throughout Trump's term, craven Republicans excused his countless lies, his attacks on democratic institutions, his open scheming not to accept the election results long before the election itself occurred. After President Joe Biden won his resounding victory, too many Republicans refused to acknowledge it, letting Trump's rabid claims that the election was stolen fester among his followers.

"What's the downside for humoring him?" one Republican official reportedly said soon after the election, as though Trump were a truculent child who could not be told the truth about his loss.

Even as the day arrived when Congress would ceremoniously

count the electoral ballots and certify Biden's win, a majority of Republicans in Congress were seeking to reject the voice of the people by delaying the count.

By their sowing such a wind — a gale — against democracy, no one can predict what whirlwind has been loosed into our nation's politics and government. Trump, now that he has been acquitted, can make a second run at the White House, and the Senate has no power to strip him of a pension or other benefits.

The message from the majority of Republicans who put their blinders on is clear: Inciting a crowd to attack the Capitol and trying every devious trick possible to overturn an election brings no meaningful consequences.

Although it was the most bipartisan impeachment vote in the history of the country, only seven Republicans voted to convict Trump.

Sen. Mitch McConnell on Saturday admitted the House managers proved their case, trying to shift blame from where it rightly belongs, which is squarely on GOP shoulders.

McConnell had delayed a Senate vote on the impeachment until after Trump left office, creating a cynical cover for Republicans to implausibly argue it was too late to vote to convict.

They let Trump off on a technicality they created. McConnell is fooling no one.

No doubt, many of those Republicans — rather than live up to their oaths of office — were more concerned about facing challenges in upcoming primary elections or losing the financial support of major donors. McConnell and his coat-carrying Republicans care only about trying to take back the House and Senate in 2022. But many Republicans across the country have fled the party in disgust since Jan 6, and more may flee after Feb. 13.

The shame of those who voted to acquit Trump was made clear by the utter inability of Trump's lawyers to shape any sort of coherent defense excusing his actions. Trump's enablers also showed how little they cared that Trump put his own vice president in danger. The insurrectionists were moments away from reaching and attacking members of Congress.

On Jan. 6, America lost much of its standing as a beacon of democracy for those around the world struggling to throw off the yoke of despotic governments. Convicting Trump would have at least sent a message that the flame of democracy in America cannot be so easily doused.

Too many Republicans, sitting as both collaborators and jurors, turned their backs on the rest of us.

It will be a long, hard road to put this grievous day behind us.

This editorial was first published in the Chicago Sun-Times.

LETTERS

HB 1001 harms Hoosiers' mental health

House Bill 1001, the state budget bill as currently constructed, would inexplicably make cuts to the mental health and addiction budget. This funding is crucial to the well being of all of Indiana. Please consider not cutting this funding.

At a time when behavioral health resources are needed now more than ever due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Depression, anxiety, alcoholism, drug overdose and suicide are all on the rise due to COVID-19.

The proposed budget would reduce several items, including funding for serious mental illness and substance use disorders. Additionally, the proposed budget would reduce the Recovery Works program, which is designed to move appropriate individuals in the criminal justice system into mental health and addiction treatment, when appropriate. Such a reduction will likely lead to increased incarceration and recidivism rates.

Mental Health America of Indiana strongly supports a decision by the governor's office to restore Division of Mental Health and Addiction appropriations to their Fiscal Year 2021 levels, assuming that the revenue forecast does grow as expected.

Please fully restore the funding cuts for mental health and addiction in HB 1001.

Lenore Crone, Muncie
Annie Wawrzyniak, Monticello

The violence we inflict on animals is a moral crime without parallel

Senators Mike Braun and Todd Young should support public funding for cultured-meat research, to make the cell-grown, slaughter-free protein competitive with factory-farmed meat. Israeli startup Future Meat Technologies recently announced its ability to produce a quarter-pound of cultured chicken for \$7.50. As encouraging as this is, more progress must be made on the issue of cost.

The violence we inflict on animals is a moral crime without parallel. We kill over a trillion aquatic and land creatures every year. The widespread adoption of cultured meat could help eliminate this unnecessary suffering. Compassionate legislators should advance this goal by offering public funds for cellular-agriculture research. This will help lower the price of cultured meat, making it more competitive with its slaughtered counterpart.

Jon Hochschartner
Granby, Connecticut

Give them a raise

Many Hoosier voters don't know that Indiana's minimum wage is really \$2.13 per hour. That is what waiters and waitresses make at many restaurants in Indiana. That is how little I made as a waiter in 1996.

Tipped restaurant workers depend on tips. But when restaurants use the tipped workers to take and package orders for carry out or delivery, the servers make no tips. A waitress I know complained to me that her employer made her take and package 87 to go orders in one shift. She made no tips. She was paid only \$2.13 per hour. She could not live on that. So, she quit and went to a different restaurant to wait tables and get tips.

Indiana law outlaws slavery. But \$2.13 per hour amounts to "slave wages." It is time to help those who are being abused and mistreated by Indiana's \$2.13 per hour minimum wage. Tell the legislature and the governor to give them a raise.

Woodrow Wilcox
Dyer



Cabin fever redoubled

May I just say that I hate my friend Sofia today. She's in Phoenix, where the expected high is 74.

I'm not too crazy about my brother Larry, either. He's in Hill Country, Texas, sunny and 71.

Remember the pre-COVID days, when "cabin fever" meant being stuck in the house by weather for a week or two, not trapped in a floating-virus, keep-your-distance nightmare without end?

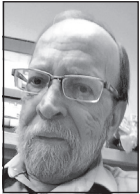
It was called "winter," and the nice thing about it was that it came and went on a somewhat predictable basis. The snow would melt. The temperature would slowly rise. The flowers would bloom and the birds would sing.

Now the temperature has dropped into single digits, with several days of sub-zero weather in the offing, and it feels like double secret probation. Really? We finally have a vaccine that might let us get out and mingle again, and they tell us to stay in because it's too dangerously cold? Go ahead, kick us while we're down.

I knew it was dangerously cold without being told. When the temperature dips to a certain point, the draft in my downstairs bathroom, which is on an outside wall, is too much to bear, so I have to, um, go upstairs. It might not be as scientific as the Fahrenheit scale, but it is remarkably accurate.

At least I am finally following the advice of some in the medical community and double masking when I leave the house, one mask to keep anything I might have caught from

Leo Morris



me feel nearly as guilty as those who hurl that insult might hope. I will try, Zen-like, to accept my misery.

I went online to look up "ways to beat cabin fever" and was amazed at the superficial advice so casually offered for what was assumed to be a temporary affliction.

Focus on self-improvement. Been doing that for a year. If I become any more perfect, no one will be able to stand me.

Take on a home project, like remodeling, deep cleaning or rearranging the furniture. That was for when my home was my castle, not my prison.

Entertain yourself. Read a good book, try a new recipe, binge on Netflix, start scrapbooking, do a jigsaw puzzle. Of limited benefit for brief periods. Pastimes are meant as a means of temporary escape from reality. They cannot replace reality.

Write a letter to an old friend: Dear Sofia, I hate you.

Reach out to others. Something just social, such as starting a club, or altruistic, like volunteering for a non-profit agency. Yeah, but social distancing would take the fun of the social and add risk to the altruistic.

Plan your summer vacation. This one actually appeals to me.

As we can look ahead from the dead of winter to the warmth of vacation time, we can imagine how life might be post-pandemic. As in: When the masks come off, the distancing is over and everything is fully opened back to public participation, what's the first thing I want to do?

No walks on the beach or sojourns in the forest, no reading a good book in a quiet corner of the library. Somewhere loud and noisy and smelly and elbow-scraping-elbow crowded. In the middle of the beer tent at the county fair while the suds flow freely and a bad band blares out worse music. Come get me, disease-carrying barbarians, give it your best shot.

I notice that the experts, who have been so obstinately assertive in everything they got wrong about the coronavirus, are now being asked what the world will be like after it has left us.

Many of them foresee a version of a worry that I have written about: We will become a fearful society, distrustful of each other and giving up even more control to the government. Some envision a Roaring 20s-like eruption of wild excess and libertine debauchery. Others expect calamity, some sort of economic collapse or populist uprising.

I predict we will ease back into normality, as we always have, with one exception. We will start treating experts with the skepticism they have always deserved. Before we fully trust them again, it will be, well, a cold day in hell.

Leo Morris is a columnist for The Indiana Policy Review. Contact him at leoedits@yahoo.com.

Spartans win the defensive battle at Rose-Hulman 43-38

Manchester will host Franklin College on Friday in Stauffer-Wolfe Arena

By DILLON BENDER

The Manchester Spartans ground out a 43-38 victory at Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology on Saturday night in women's basketball action. Freshman Madison Stamm, from Fortville and Anderson Prep High School, scored the final seven points for Manchester as the Black and Gold ground out a weekend split

with the Fightin' Engineers. Stamm knocked down a three-pointer at the 4:32 mark of the fourth quarter to put the Spartans ahead 39-36. Manchester would not relinquish the lead. Despite not making another field goal as a unit, the Spartans relied on their stingy defense and on Stamm's 4-4 mark at the free-throw line down the stretch to secure Saturday's victory. Stamm led MU with nine points. Miranda Bieghler, from Plainfield and South Putnam High School, added eight points. Hillery Shepherd, from Middletown and Shenan-

doah High School, chipped in a seven-point, five-rebound performance off the bench. Rose-Hulman got 14 points and nine rebounds from Jordan Barlow. For the night, Manchester finished 14-51 from the floor. Rose-Hulman ended the day shooting 13-42. The Spartans ended the game 11-14 from the foul line. Rose shot 11-13 from the charity stripe. Winners of three of their last four games, Manchester will host Franklin College in Stauffer-Wolfe Arena on Friday, Feb. 19, at 6 p.m. Dillon Bender is the sports information director for Manchester University.

MU drops Friday contest at Rose-Hulman

The Fightin' Engineers knocked off the Spartans by a final score of 79-56

By DILLON BENDER

The Manchester University men's basketball team suffered a setback on Friday night to visiting Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology in Stauffer-Wolfe Arena. The Fightin' Engineers knocked off the Spartans by a final score of 79-56. Cold perimeter shooting plagued the Black and Gold

in the first half. Manchester was held to just 3-23 shooting from downtown in the opening 20 minutes. Manchester made 8-of-20 three-point attempts in the second half, finishing 11-43 (25.6 percent) from three-point territory for the game. The Fightin' Engineers also knocked down 11 triples on Friday, shoot-

ing 11-27 (40.7 percent). Rose-Hulman shot 28-62 for the game, good for 45.2 percent. RHIT also went a perfect 12-12 at the free throw line. Brandon Christlieb, from Ashley and Prairie Heights High School, led the Black and Gold with 15 points and four rebounds. Mitch Mendenhall, from New Haven and Woodlan High School, chipped in 11 points. Freshmen Hunter Perlich, from Fort Wayne and Churubusco High School,

chipped in eight points off the bench, while Coy Hampton, from Park Forest, Illinois and Crete Monee High School, added six points and three rebounds. Craig McGee led four Engineers in double figures with 15 points. The Spartans (2-7) traveled to Rose-Hulman (7-2) Saturday for a 3:30 p.m. road contest in Hulbert Arena. Dillon Bender is the sports information director at Manchester University.

Spartans stymied by engineers in second half

Manchester finished 12-49 from the field for 24.5 percent

By DILLON BENDER

The Manchester University women's basketball team fell to visiting Rose-Hulman 52-39 on Friday night in Stauffer-Wolfe Arena. The Fightin' Engineer de-

fense stymied the Spartans following halftime. Manchester was held to just 15 points over the final 20 minutes of Friday's contest. After trailing early on Friday night, Manchester used a 12-5 second quarter to grab a 24-22 lead at the intermission. Following halftime, the Fightin' Engineer defense allowed just three points in

the third period. MU would not be able to overcome the double-digit deficit. Rose-Hulman shot 18-44 for the game, good for 40.9 percent. The Spartans finished 12-49 from the field for 24.5 percent. MU held a 38-30 advantage on the glass and converted 16 Rose-Hulman turnovers into 14 points. Tiara Jackson, from East Chicago and Central High

School, led MU with another double-double, posting game-highs of 14 points and 13 rebounds. Madison Stamm, from Fortville and Anderson Prep High School, scored 10 points. The Spartans traveled to Rose-Hulman on Saturday for a 6:45 p.m. road contest in Hulbert Arena. Dillon Bender is the sports information director at Manchester University.

'Not normal': Novak Djokovic raises quarantine-injury connection

By HOWARD FENDRICH
AP Tennis Writer



William West / AFP

Novak Djokovic celebrates after winning against Alexander Zverev during their men's singles quarterfinal match at the Australian Open on Tuesday.

tions of practice," Djokovic continued. "The 14-day quarantine — people don't realize, but the amount of injuries in this tournament has shown how much effect it has on the players' bodies. It's really — it's taken its toll, unfortunately, on all of us." Zverev's midsection, like Djokovic's, was taped up for their match. Djokovic's next foe, 114th-ranked qualifier Aslan Karatsev, won Tuesday against 18th-seeded Grigor Dimitrov, who could barely make it up a set of stairs to leave the court afterward and said his back was so painful beforehand it was difficult to put on his socks. Nadal dealt with a back problem for weeks, sitting out one of the tuneup tournaments held at the Australian Open's site. No. 9 Matteo Berrettini withdrew after hurting a stomach muscle in the third round. Quarterfinalist Andrey Rublev's fourth-round match ended after two sets when No. 24 Casper Ruud stopped because of an injury. Dimitrov's opponent in the third round, No. 15 Pablo Carreño Busta, stopped after just seven games.

And so on. "What we are seeing is not normal. It's not something we are used to. Top players are the ones that are fittest. ... I mean, obviously, it has something to do with these kind of circumstances that we were in," Djokovic said at his post-match news conference, referring to the quarantines meant to prevent the spread of COVID-19. "I don't want to sit here (and) complain about what we have been through. But we have to be honest and realistic that it has an effect on the physical well-being of players," he said. "Of course, also mental, emotional." He said he has "heard a lot of complaints" from players who were willing to go through quarantines for the bigger paychecks at a Grand Slam tournament but are concerned about reduced prize money at lower-level events. Djokovic also mentioned the possibility of a "bubble" environment of the sort the NBA used last season, with all contests being played at one site — an idea Zverev endorsed.

Late rally falls short as Engineers clip Spartans 73-69

Rose-Hulman held a 40-21 advantage in rebounding

By DILLON BENDER

The Manchester University Spartans' late rally on the road came up just short as the host Fightin' Engineers of Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology edged the Black and Gold 73-69 in men's basketball action on Saturday, Feb. 13. After Rose-Hulman built a 66-56 advantage at the 3:33 mark of the second half, the Manchester Spartans used a 9-2 spurt to pull Saturday's contest to within a possession with just 59 seconds remaining. A three-pointer by Brandon Christlieb, from Ashley and Prairie Heights High School, jump-started the late rally. Fellow freshman Jackson Jannsen, from Carmel, made a pair of free throws while senior Matt Westman, from Michigan City, nailed a critical jumper. The late run was highlighted by a layup from Mitch Mendenhall, from New Haven and Wooldan High School. Needing a stop, the Spartans' defense forced a contested layup by Rose-Hulman's Max Chaplin to misfire, however, 6-7 forward Jacob Back of RHIT was able to corral the ensuing rebound and laid the ball back in to put the Fightin' Engineers ahead 70-65 with just 27 seconds remaining. RHIT would get a stop on the next possession of the game to secure the win. Manchester's offense

heated up significantly from the night before. On Friday night, MU was held to 35.6 percent (21-59) shooting from the floor and 25.6 percent (11-43) shooting from three. The Black and Gold finished 26-51 from the floor on Saturday afternoon, good for 51 percent. The Spartans also finished 38.5 percent (10-26) from beyond the three-point arc. Rose-Hulman finished 24-54 (44.4 percent) from the floor on Saturday. The Black and Gold held the Fightin' Engineers to just 8-27 (29.6 percent) shooting from downtown. Rose-Hulman held a 40-21 advantage in rebounding. RHIT also went 17-21 from the free-throw line, compared to Manchester's 7-12 mark. Senior Cortiz Buckner, from Lafayette and Lafayette Jefferson High School, matched a career-high on Saturday afternoon with 27 points on 12-14 shooting. Buckner added four assists and a pair of steals. Fellow senior CJ Hampton, from Hammond and Griffith High School, was the only other Spartan to score in double figures, finishing with 13 points. Hampton went 3-4 from three-point range and added five rebounds and four steals. Isaac Farnsworth led three Engineers in double figures with 18 points. Manchester will return to Stauffer-Wolfe Arena on Friday, Feb. 19 against Franklin College. Tip against the Grizzlies is scheduled for 8 p.m. Dillon Bender is the sports information director for Manchester University.

SCOREBOARD

HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

Indiana High School Boys Basketball Poll				
Class 4A				
	W-L	Pts	Prv	
1. Homestead (14)	21-0	280	1	
2. Carmel	18-2	228	2	
3. Lawrence North	19-2	208	3	
4. Indpls Cathedral	16-2	184	4	
5. Plainfield	18-1	172	5	
6. S. Bend Adams	18-1	153	6	
7. Warren Central	16-5	138	7	
8. Indianapolis Attucks	16-4	99	9	
9. Lafayette Jeff	17-2	99	8	
10. Gary West	15-3	72	10	
Others receiving votes: McCutcheon 23. Ev. Reitz 12. Center Grove 6. Fishers 6.				
Class 3A				
	W-L	Pts	Prv	
1. Hammond (13)	13-1	274	1	
2. Silver Creek	14-4	238	2	
3. Mishawaka Marian	15-2	213	4	
4. Leo (1)	17-1	204	6	
5. Greensburg	14-2	133	7	
6. Ev. Bosse	15-3	114	3	
7. Danville	13-2	104	9	
8. Heritage Hills	14-3	103	5	
9. S. Bend St. Joseph	13-4	98	8	
10. Sullivan	15-2	85	10	
Others receiving votes: Guerin Catholic 78. N. Harrison 18. Western 10. Hanover Central 8.				
Class 2A				
	W-L	Pts	Prv	
1. FW Blackhawk (14)	17-3	280	1	
2. Shenandoah	18-3	250	2	
3. Linton-Stockton	17-3	195	4	
4. Central Noble	16-1	185	5	
5. Parke Heritage	19-3	162	6	
6. S. Daviess	16-1	131	7	
7. S. Spencer	13-4	114	3	
8. Blackford	16-4	90	9	
9. Indpls Covenant Chr.	16-4	86	8	
10. Northeastern	16-3	64	NR	
Others receiving votes: Carroll (Flora) 48. Madison-Grant 28. Rochester 22. Westview 13. Churubusco 12.				
Class A				
	W-L	Pts	Prv	
1. Barr-Reeve (14)	19-2	280	1	
2. Loogootee	16-3	244	2	
3. Kouts	18-2	226	3	
4. N. Daviess	16-3	172	5	
5. Edinburg	16-4	166	4	
6. Indpls Lutheran	17-3	146	8	
7. Morristown	16-4	108	10	
8. Tindley	13-8	100	6	
9. Bloomfield	11-6	65	9	
10. Covington	10-4	58	NR	
Others receiving votes: Orleans 50. Argos 29. Triton 23. Lafayette Catholic 13.				

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE				
Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	18	10	.643	—
Brooklyn	17	12	.586	1½
Boston	13	13	.500	4
New York	14	15	.483	4½
Toronto	12	15	.444	5½
Southeast Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Charlotte	13	15	.464	—
Miami	11	16	.407	1½
Atlanta	11	16	.407	1½
Orlando	10	18	.357	3
Washington	8	17	.320	3½
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	16	11	.593	—
Indiana	14	14	.500	2½
Chicago	11	15	.423	4½
Cleveland	10	19	.345	7
Detroit	8	19	.296	8
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Southwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	16	11	.593	—
Memphis	11	11	.500	2½
Dallas	13	15	.464	3½

New Orleans	11	15	.423	4½
Houston	11	16	.407	5
Northwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Utah	23	5	.821	—
Portland	16	10	.615	6
Denver	15	11	.577	7
Oklahoma City	11	15	.423	11
Minnesota	7	20	.259	15½
Pacific Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
L.A. Lakers	21	7	.750	—
L.A. Clippers	21	8	.724	½
Phoenix	17	9	.654	3
Golden State	15	13	.536	6
Sacramento	12	15	.444	8½

Monday's Games				
Washington 131, Houston 119				
Chicago 120, Indiana 112				
New York 123, Atlanta 112				
Utah 134, Philadelphia 123				
Brooklyn 136, Sacramento 125				
Golden State 129, Cleveland 98				
L.A. Clippers 125, Miami 118				
Wednesday's Games				
Chicago at Charlotte, 7 p.m.				
New York at Orlando, 7 p.m.				
Atlanta at Boston, 7:30 p.m.				
Houston at Philadelphia, 7:30 p.m.				
Denver at Washington, 8 p.m.				
Indiana at Minnesota, 8 p.m.				
San Antonio at Cleveland, 8 p.m.				
Detroit at Dallas, 9 p.m.				
Oklahoma City at Memphis, 9 p.m.				
Portland at New Orleans, 9 p.m.				
Miami at Golden State, 10 p.m.				
Utah at L.A. Clippers, 10 p.m.				

NHL

East Division				
	GP	W	L	OT
Boston	14	10	2	2
Philadelphia	14	8	3	3
N.Y. Islanders	13	7	4	2
Washington	13	6	4	3
Pittsburgh	13	7	5	1
N.Y. Rangers	13	4	6	3
New Jersey	9	4	3	2
Buffalo	11	4	5	2
Central Division				
	GP	W	L	OT
Tampa Bay	14	10	3	1
Florida	13	9	2	2
Carolina	13	10	3	0
Chicago	17	8	5	4
Columbus	17	7	6	4
Dallas	12	5	3	4
Nashville	15	6	9	0
Detroit	17	4	10	3
West Division				
	GP	W	L	OT
Vegas	13	10	2	1
St. Louis	16	9	5	2
Arizona	15	7	6	2
Colorado	12	7	4	1
Anaheim	16	6	7	3
San Jose	14	6	7	1
Minnesota	11	6	5	0
Los Angeles	13	4	6	3
North Division				
	GP	W	L	OT
Toronto	16	11	3	2
Montreal	15	9	4	2
Winnipeg	15	9	5	1
Edmonton	17	8	8	1
Calgary	15	8	6	1
Vancouver	19	7	11	1
Ottawa	17	4	12	1
NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. The top four teams in each division will qualify for playoffs under this season's temporary realignment.				
Monday's Games				
Arizona 1, St. Louis 0				
N.Y. Islanders 3, Buffalo 1				
Florida 6, Tampa Bay 4				
Carolina 7, Columbus 3				
Ottawa 6, Toronto 5, OT				
Chicago 3, Detroit 2, OT				

Winnipeg 6, Edmonton 5				
Calgary 4, Vancouver 3, OT				
San Jose 3, Anaheim 2				
New Jersey 3, Boston, ppd				
Nashville at Dallas, ppd				
Wednesday's Games				
Florida at Carolina, 5 p.m.				
Ottawa at Toronto, 7 p.m.				
Chicago at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.				
Vancouver at Calgary, 10 p.m.				
Winnipeg at Edmonton, 10 p.m.				

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

ATLANTIC COAST CONFERENCE				
Conference				
	W	L	Pct	All Games
Virginia	11	2	.846	15 4 .789
Florida St.	8	2	.800	12 3 .800
Virginia Tech	8	3	.727	14 4 .778
Louisville	6	3	.667	11 4 .733
Clemson	7	5	.583	13 5 .722
North Carolina	7	5	.583	12 7 .632
Syracuse	6	5	.545	12 6 .667
Georgia Tech	6	6	.500	10 8 .556
Duke	6	6	.500	8 8 .500
Notre Dame	6	7	.462	9 10 .474
Pittsburgh	5	6	.455	9 7 .563
NC State	4	8	.333	8 9 .471
Wake Forest	3	9	.250	6 9 .400
Miami	3	11	.214	7 12 .368
Boston College	1	9	.100	3 13 .188
Monday's Games				
Florida St. 81, Virginia 60				
Tuesday's Game				
Virginia Tech at North Carolina, ppd.				
Wednesday's Games				
Boston College at Georgia Tech, Noon				
Northeastern at North Carolina, TBA				
NC State at Pittsburgh, 4:30 p.m.				
Syracuse at Louisville, 6:30 p.m.				
Clemson at Notre Dame, ppd.				
BIG EAST CONFERENCE				
Conference				
	W	L	Pct	All Games
Villanova	8	2	.800	13 3 .813

LET IT SNOW



Provided photo by Abbey C. Arwood
“This is outside our garage door,” said Abbey C. Arwood.



Even large dogs were partially buried as they walked through the high areas of snow. Provided photo by Amanda Galley



Provided photo by Larry Walk Jr.
This dog was able to locate the fire hydrant, even with the snow.



Dogs of all sizes enjoyed the newly frozen landscape. Provided photo by Rhonda Birk Dale



High snow drifts made digging out a bit more difficult Tuesday. Provided photo by Patty Jacobs



Provided photo by Lisa Young Allen
Impressions of the outside doors were visible even when opened due to the high snow drifts.

Biden faces questions about commitment to minimum wage hike

By WILL WEISSERT and ALEXANDRA JAFFE
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Union activist Terrence Wise recalls being laughed at when he began pushing for a national \$15 per hour minimum wage almost a decade ago. Nearly a year into the pandemic, the idea isn’t so funny.

The coronavirus has renewed focus on challenges facing hourly employees who have continued working in grocery stores, gas stations and other in-person lo-

cations even as much of the workforce has shifted to virtual environments. President Joe Biden has responded by including a provision in the massive pandemic relief bill that would more than double the minimum wage from the current \$7.25 to \$15 per hour.

But the effort is facing an unexpected roadblock: Biden himself. The president has seemingly undermined the push to raise the minimum wage by acknowledging its dim prospects in Congress, where it faces political

opposition and procedural hurdles.

That’s frustrating to activists like Wise, who worry their victory is being snatched away at the last minute despite an administration that’s otherwise an outspoken ally.

“To have it this close on the doorstep, they need to get it done,” said Wise, a 41-year-old department manager at a McDonald’s in Kansas City and a national leader of Fight for 15, an organized labor movement. “They need to feel the pressure.”



THE COVID-19 VACCINE IS HERE. IT’S TESTED, SAFE AND EFFECTIVE.

It’s our shot, Hoosiers. Seniors, long-term care residents, healthcare workers and first responders are now eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine.

To check if you or someone you know qualifies, go to **OurShot.IN.gov**. Seniors can also call 211 to learn more.



Remember, we need to keep wearing masks and following other protective measures to keep everyone safe.